

Statement of the Foreign Office Spokesman

December 1, 1937

Two news items appearing in the Japan Advertiser of December 10 have coincidentally brought into sharp relief the contrasting attitudes of Japanese and the Chinese forces toward those things which are dear to mankind. One is the report of the New York Times correspondent in Nanking describing the utter destruction of that Chinese capital by the Chinese forces themselves. The report says that the correspondent was informed by neutral military observers who spent several days inspecting the war zone that the Chinese soldiers have been recklessly razing towns and villages surrounding Nanking, not only destroying cultural establishments and institutions representing billions of yuans of wealth accumulated by their ancestors and by the sweat of their own labour, but ruthlessly slaughtering innocent inhabitants who are simply bewildered by the vandalism of their own countrymen.

The other news item is the report concerning the advice which General Iwane Matsui, Commander of the Japanese forces in Shanghai area, sent to the Commander of the Chinese forces defending Nanking, in which the Japanese commander, expressing his desire of preserving intact the cultural and historic establishments in the ancient walled city out of respect to the civilization of the East, and preventing unnecessary sacrifice of human lives urged the Chinese to surrender peacefully.

Latest reports from the front say that the Chinese refused the Japanese advice. What this refusal will mean will become apparent as we get further news from the battlefield. But it is a pity that, by the stubborn and futile attempt of the Chinese forces to resist the onslaught of the besieging forces, tens of thousands of innocent people in that area, already deprived by their own soldiers of their homes and means of subsistence, are to be left to the mercy of the elements when the rigorous cold of the winter is approaching. That the Japanese forces will mete out thoroughgoing punishment to those recalcitrant Chinese forces is a foregone conclusion.

C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, HAYASHI Kaoru, Chief of the Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached in English consisting of three pages and entitled "Statement of the Foreign Office Spokesman. December 1, 1957", is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,
on this 9th day of April 1947.

K. Hayashi
Signature of Official

Witness: K. Urabe

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情報部長談話。

一九三七年十二月一日

十二月十日附ジャパンアドバタイザ紙掲載の二つの記事は、期せずして人類に取つて貴重である物に対する、日本軍が採つたものであつて、よい對照を成す態度を基に解明に來はしてゐる。その一つの記事は、ニコライタイムス南京特派員の報道であつて、中國軍自身でこの中國の首都を徹底的に破壊した事を記述する。

其は該特派員が戰闘區域を数日間観察した。中立國觀戰武官から聞いて書いたものであるが、中國兵は、南京の周囲の都市橈宿を破壊し、彼等の祖先が又彼等自身汗を流し傷つて、蓄積した幾十億元の象徴たる文化施設を破壊した計りである。自國人の蠻行に唯まどろく而無辜の住民を假借なく殺戮するのである。

他の二つは、上海方面日本軍司令官松井石根大將が南京防衛中國軍司令官

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に致した勧告の報道である。

左によると、松井司令官は東洋文明の英光
を毀損する事なく其儘保存し度々由を述べ
べ、且無用なる人命の犠牲を無くし中國人が
平和裡に降服する事を促すのである。

前線からの最近の報道によると、中國側は
日本側の勧告を拒否した相である。この拒否
が何を意味するかは戦場からの實報を俟つ
て明瞭になるであろう。

然し中國軍が攻囲軍の猛烈な頑強では
あるが無益の抵抗を試みるために既に自國
兵に住む可き家及び省城を奪はれたる地
域の幾万無辜の民が、久の嚴寒に近づい
る時、自然の儘に放置されねばならぬとは
憤れぬ事である。であるから日本軍は、か
る強情怠慢の中國軍を徹底的に膺懲
せねばなるまい。

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